

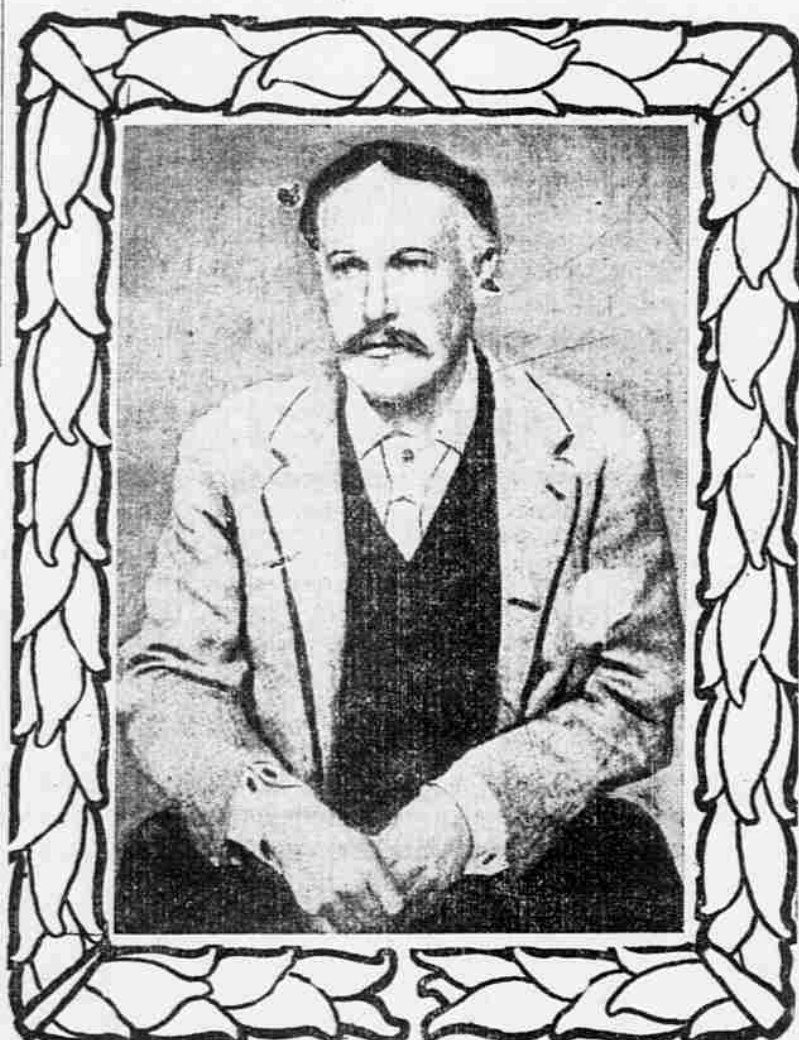
FICTION PREDOMINATES IN SPRING PUBLICATIONS—ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE PUBLISHERS—BOOK REVIEWS—NOTES AND LITERARY GOSSIP.

"THE PEOPLE OF THE ABYSS."

Ordinarily, you don't go slumming for your good reading. As a rule, you search out a novel that tells of the joys and sorrows of someone's love—with a conventional finish that runs along the "happy-ever-after" lines.

It took Jack London to fix your interest on the romance of a collier. He introduced you to a dog somewhere down in the fraudulent mountains of Southern California, and he forced you to go with the brute into an Alaskan winter, where the thermometer dangled with seventy below the zero mark. Then you followed Mr. Collier through a dozen fights, where you felt for him, and applauded him, and prayed for him, and all but went over him until he answered the call of the wild, and became, in very fact, a wolf. And it is this same Jack London who takes you to the East End of London, a section which you have avoided on the bookshelves of a hundred libraries all your life. You have dodged the fearful descriptions of poverty, the wretchedness of the slums, the plague-for they but wept over the pages that were smudged with indelible stains. Most everyone who has written of the East End has acquired his material with a telescope. Jack London went there, right there, at the bottom, to half a thousand undergrounds who knew not where to lay their heads, nor knew the feeling of a satisfied appetite—men whose pitiful frames were six inches short of standard for the mere want of food, men whose daily earnings were never above 40 cents, men who cried out against the Lord Chamberlain as he took a day's holiday from the want of food—and even sleep; for in the East Side the parks are closed to the poor at night, and if one of the hundred thousand homeless seeks a nap in a doorway—bang! goes the bobby's night stick, with a "Bilney, wotcher don't here?" and up comes the undodged, sleepless one, to follow on a few uncertain steps, only to fall again and await the next shock of a night stick. And there are love-stories in the East Side, and heroics, and gentleness, and murder! When you have visited this most terrible place on earth in the company of Jack London you have seen it as surely as if you saw it with your own pampered eyes.

You pause to question the truth of the statement that a woman of 70 will work fourteen hours a day for a week, furnishing her own thread and paste, make several thousand wax boxes, and at the end receive about \$2. But London will give you name and time and place. You've got to believe him, for even a romanticist would not lie to secure the effect that he gets from this. And you will wonder, again, when you hear that a grown man will pick hops all of a chill October day and that when the day is over he will have had a dozen cents, part of it held back to insure the master his services on the morrow. Nor is there food and bed with this—the hop picker must find his own crust and his own culvert. Jack London says that the army has reduced the standard of height for enlisted men, the reason being that the starving millions on the East Side have reduced the stature of



Author of "A Preacher's Story of His Work," published by the Outlook Company.

oration of the foundation of the British and Foreign Bible Society, which rounded out one hundred years of its magnificent and world-wide service on March 7. It may be regarded as certain that the churches uniting and heartily entered into the observance of the day designated with all zeal and sincerity, since no work in all the world is more closely related to their welfare, their progress, and their very life than the work carried on by this great Bible society and its branches and offshoots in every land under the sun.

The British and Foreign Bible Society owes its origin largely to a pathetic incident related to the English Tract Society by one of its representatives in Wales, a Welsh preacher, who had been deeply moved by that country. He showed the need and the eagerness of his people by telling of a little Welsh girl who had run to him from a distance of between twenty and thirty miles over the wild mountains to purchase a Bible. In consequence of this appeal, a thought suggested itself to the secretary of the tract society, that "if such a society were likely to prove useful to Wales, why not to the other countries of Europe, or to the whole world?" This thought was destined to result in what has been called the greatest literary enterprise of the nineteenth century.

CONFESSIONS OF A LITERARY FAILURE.

The other day I sent a short story to a magazine that publishes a good deal of light fiction, and received a letter from its editor in which he said he liked my story and would print it, but he would have to ask me to sign the enclosed card, this being a new deal. I read the card with much interest and found it closely resembled the affairs one has to fill to get a soldier's pension. It consisted of questions followed by blanks, somewhat like the following: Was your mother a white woman? Did your grandfather die of apoplexy, or just plain cramp? Are you sure you can write? What is your real name? How many children have you? If not, why not? Who said you could write stories? Is the plot of the story your own, or did you borrow it? etc., etc. I considered the card very personal, but I flatter myself I answered it in a manner to rob it of half of its insinuation. I wrote "No" in every one of the blanks and inclosed it to the editor and told him that I answered all the questions in the negative because I wasn't sure of anything. Uncertainty is the result of a life devoted to "literature."

While the writing of this long litany of sorrow has been a painful business, it does me good. I shall not regret it, if it ends the end comes and I look back upon a mispent life there may be a ray of comfort to me in the thought that my literary efforts were refused by the best magazines in the country.—"It," in the March Critic.

A STARTLING NATURE BOOK.

"Wild Beasts I Have Seen," by Bridget Seton-Clancy. This charming group of essays has about it the odor of the backwoods to a remarkable degree.

The authoress explains, in her preface, that her early life was spent in the wilds of Northern Minnesota, where she associated almost entirely with wild animals. She says:

"Many times I used to set under a tree for hours to a time, waiting for to get a shot at a rabbit. I could shoot good with a rifle, and have often seen men who were worse shots than I. When the other girls were waiting their time going to district school I would be walking through the woods, watching the wild beasts playing in the trees and on the grass, and learning something every minute. I seen lots of funny incidents, which I will try to mention in this book."

Miss Seton-Clancy is one of those free, untamed souls who occasionally startle the literary world by their supreme disregard for the statute in such case made and provided. If she is ever worried by the rules of grammar, it does not appear in her work. She has something to say, and says it straight from the shoulder.

This is one of the best books of the year, and it should enjoy a large sale.

"Wild Beasts I Have Seen," by Bridget Seton-Clancy. Pewaukee Press, publishers.—Milwaukee Sentinel.

NOTES AND LITERARY PERSONALS.

Connoisseurs in art will be interested in the Burlington Magazine's announcement of special features for the year. Mr. Lionel Cust will have a series of articles on the pictures in the royal collection, and Mr. Richard R. Holmes a similar series on English miniature painters including the miniatures at Windsor and in many famous private collections. Another series deals with "Great

Houses" of artistic interest and their contents, including furniture, silver, pictures and tapestries.

Among March publications The Century Company announces "Order No. 11," by Caroline Abbot Stanley. Order No. 11 brought ruin to hundreds of Missouri families, whom its provisions drove into a hostile country, while their homes were pillaged and burned. The order was part of the bitter harvest of the border warfare between Missouri and Kansas in the days when the Jayhawkers and Quantrell's men terrorized the land. Around this period and this motive Mrs. Stanley has woven a story of love and war.

Mr. John T. McCutcheon, in addition to being one of the highest salaried cartoonists in the United States, and on one of its greatest newspapers at that, is a particularly active young man. He has to draw a cartoon every day, and besides draw the royalties are appearing in several magazines. The Saturday Evening Post recently contained a very clever article for which he supplied pictures and text, a forthcoming book of political stories will be illustrated by his drawings, and when he has nothing else to do he can watch the royalties time in on his own book published last year, "Cartoons by McCutcheon," had the remarkable sale of 10,000 copies in 1903, which, for a book of cartoons, is almost without precedent.

Books of fiction, of course, run up ten times this figure, but Mr. McCutcheon's book was a collection of pictures only. A much greater success is expected for his new book, "A Little Tragedy at Tien-Tsin" (Robert Grier Cooke), the publication of which is awaited with interest, was born in New York city, but has lived in many lands—largely in Europe. She has never been in China at all, and the tributes paid by famous Chinamen to the descriptions in her Chinese work are remarkable, under the circumstances. Mrs. Matthews, who now resides in New York, is a niece of the late Cornelius Matthews, a playright of the St. Louis Exposition, is the author of an article published in the March number of the North American Review, entitled, "A New Venture to America's Oriental Trade," which deserves to be carefully read and considered by all who are interested in the commercial welfare of the country. Mr. Wong takes it for granted that American legislators acted wisely when they passed into law the Chinese exclusion act, which prevents Chinese laborers and coolies from entering the United States. It will be remembered, however, that in the Chinese exclusion law there is a section which exempts from its operation the Chinese merchant, student, and traveler for pleasure or curiosity. Mr. Wong tells an appalling story of the abuses perpetrated by the representatives of the Government in carrying out the provisions of the exclusion law which apply to the exempt class. He lays emphasis on the fact that merchants and Chinese gentlemen who are refused admittance to the country because of technical irregularities in their papers for which they are not responsible (as they have been in considerable numbers) are not likely to harbor a friendly feeling toward the United States, and that this country may, in consequence, find itself at a disadvantage when it is striving, in competition with other nations to develop Chinese trade.

A very good idea of Japanese character and life may be had from Lafcadio Hearn's volume, entitled "Kokoro," which, as its title signifies, goes to the heart of things. One chapter gives a vivid description of the conditions in Japan during the war with China—the intense patriotism, the calm feeling and national strength. The announcement of each victory resulted in an enormous manufacture and sale of crude colored prints and ingenious mechanical toys requiring the Chinese. In the theaters every episode of the campaign was repeated on the stage, with artificial snowstorms to represent the hardships of Manchuria. Mr. Hearn is to publish a new volume of Japanese stories, entitled "Kwaidan," through Houghton, Mifflin & Co., the last of March.

Probably the best education for an artist is a combination of the art school and the studio of the experienced artist, and it is something like this that our best and most successful painters get. By the systematic practice of the school the student acquires good methods of handling material, learns where to put the point of his pencil, becomes acquainted with such formal branches as anatomy and perspective, gains a general acquaintance through literary and lectures with the history of art, and lays an invaluable foundation for future achievement. If the student does not accomplish these things in the best American art schools of to-day, it is his own fault. If after this he can be associated with some eminent artist who is engaged in mural painting or other real work, he stands a chance of developing into a painter—that is, he will develop into a painter if he has the capacity for

it, and not otherwise. Here, I take it, is the difficulty of the present with both art schools and studios, at least in America.

—W. M. French, in the World To-Day for March.

We have just seen a French translation of one of Mr. Roosevelt's books, and in casually running through it we came upon a most delightful thing. Mr. Roosevelt had quoted the famous remark of Senator Gallinger to the effect that "in politics, the Golden Rule and the Ten Commandments are an iridescent dream." To this quotation the French translator felt it necessary to append an explanatory footnote which reads as follows:

"The Golden Rule: One of the aphorisms ascribed to Pythagoras."—From Chronicle and Comment, in March Bookman.

Miss Frances Aymar Matthews, the author of "A Little Tragedy at Tien-Tsin" (Robert Grier Cooke), the publication of which is awaited with interest, was born in New York city, but has lived in many lands—largely in Europe. She has never been in China at all, and the tributes paid by famous Chinamen to the descriptions in her Chinese work are remarkable, under the circumstances. Mrs. Matthews, who now resides in New York, is a niece of the late Cornelius Matthews, a playright of the St. Louis Exposition, is the author of an article published in the March number of the North American Review, entitled, "A New Venture to America's Oriental Trade," which deserves to be carefully read and considered by all who are interested in the commercial welfare of the country. Mr. Wong takes it for granted that American legislators acted wisely when they passed into law the Chinese exclusion act, which prevents Chinese laborers and coolies from entering the United States. It will be remembered, however, that in the Chinese exclusion law there is a section which exempts from its operation the Chinese merchant, student, and traveler for pleasure or curiosity. Mr. Wong tells an appalling story of the abuses perpetrated by the representatives of the Government in carrying out the provisions of the exclusion law which apply to the exempt class. He lays emphasis on the fact that merchants and Chinese gentlemen who are refused admittance to the country because of technical irregularities in their papers for which they are not responsible (as they have been in considerable numbers) are not likely to harbor a friendly feeling toward the United States, and that this country may, in consequence, find itself at a disadvantage when it is striving, in competition with other nations to develop Chinese trade.

John Burroughs will establish in April Outing a regular editorial department, in which he will talk in his intimate way to Outing readers about this great world of living things—the growing, flying, swimming life about us. This is undoubtedly the most important editorial announcement of the year.

Mr. Burroughs's name carries with it the promise of entertainment and the guarantee of authority. His recent much-talked-of magazine articles make him, at this time, the most prominent figure before the magazine-reading public.

Books Received.
"A Failure," by Charles Bloomingdale, Jr. Illustrated by V. Floyd Campbell. Published by J. B. Lippincott Company, Philadelphia. Price, \$1.25.

"The Rainbow Chasers." A Story of the Plains. By John H. Whitson. With Illustrations from Drawings by Arthur E. Becker. Published by Little, Brown & Co., Boston.

"The Vindictive." By John R. Carling. Published by Little, Brown & Co., Boston.

THE SUNDAY-SCHOOL LESSON.

For March 20, "Jesus Feeds the Five Thousand." (Matt. xiv, 13-25.)

INTRODUCTION.—Last lesson treated a most interesting subject, the death of John the Baptist. His recent martyrdom was a most timely reminder of the need of the old dispensation, and his ministry was a warning to the people to prepare for the coming of the Messiah. The thought of the people to repent of their sins, to change their mode of life, to turn to God, and to be baptized. His work was eminently successful. His recent martyrdom was a most timely reminder of the need of the old dispensation, and his ministry was a warning to the people to prepare for the coming of the Messiah. The thought of the people to repent of their sins, to change their mode of life, to turn to God, and to be baptized. His work was eminently successful. His recent martyrdom was a most timely reminder of the need of the old dispensation, and his ministry was a warning to the people to prepare for the coming of the Messiah. 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